

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4012
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2006
VRS TO BSNL AND MTNL EMPLOYEES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the BSNL and the MTNL has offered attractive VRS to its employees;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of employees opted for VRS and since retired during the last three years, Group-wise and the details of package provided to them; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of the employees of the BSNL and the MTNL and to improve the services of both the organisations?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has offered attractive Voluntary Retirement (VR) Scheme to its employees. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has not offered any VR Scheme to its employees.

(b) In MTNL, three round of VR Scheme has been introduced so far.

(i) In 2004 for Non-Executive (erstwhile Group 'C' and 'D') employees.

(ii) In 2005 for Executive (erstwhile Group 'B') employees.

(iii) In 2006 for Non-Executive employees.

(c) Details for MTNL are as given below:

YEAR GROUP OPTED FOR VRS AND SINCE RETIRED

2004 C 1659
D 294
2005 B 611
2006 C

D Scheme was open from 21st March 2006 to 10th April 2006. 1402 applications have been cleared by the Screening Committee of MTNL, Delhi and Mumbai.

The terminal benefits/packages under the scheme included VR Compensation equivalent to 60 days salary (Basic+DA) for each completed year of service or salary for number of years/months left till the date of superannuation, whichever is less, Retirement Gratuity, Leave Encashment, Provident Fund (PF) and Commutation of Pensionary Benefits etc.

(d) MTNL and BSNL have been formed as Public Sector Units by carving out the service provisioning functions of this Department. The Government employees seeking absorption were given attractive terms and conditions of service for their absorption in BSNL and MTNL. On 30.9.2000, Government issued notification for insertion of Rule 37A in CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 providing adequate safeguards to protect the interest of the employees. The employees absorbed in MTNL and BSNL w.e.f. 1.10.2000 onwards are protected under Rule 37A.

BSNL and MTNL Boards have been empowered by the Government to take effective steps to improve the services. Some of the steps taken by BSNL/MTNL for improving the Telecom services in respective organizations are:

1. Modernisation of telecom network to reduce faults.
2. Provision of customer friendly new services at affordable prices.
3. Improving customer relations.
4. Tariff revision from time to time to meet the aspirations of the customers.
5. Measures to facilitate easy payment of telephone bills.
6. Comprehensive maintenance arrangements through Annual Maintenance Contract with the switching technology providers.
7. Continuous upgradation and updation of telephone exchanges.
8. Replacement of worn out and life expired equipments.
9. Upgradation of external plant by taking steps such as Pole-less Network, Replacement of Paper Core Cables by other Systems, Introduction of Wireless in Local Loop, Interactive Voice Response System, provision of maintenance free Battery and Engine Alternators etc.
10. Addition of mobile switching capacities and extension/improvement of coverage of existing mobile services on highways, railway tracks and in other uncovered areas.
11. Expansion in Switching Capacity, Transmission Capacity, Optical Fibre Networks and introduction of new technologies like Dense Wave Division Multiplexing (DWDM), Internet Protocol (IP) Telephony, Broadband, Intelligent Network Services etc.
12. Provision of Village Public telephones to make villages of the country accessible etc.